

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 444
By Davis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Dr. Gene Lasley on the celebration of his 40th anniversary as Pastor of Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee and the dedicated pastors who lead these congregations are important elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith and those who minister to them; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene Lasley is one such estimable minister who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2003, Dr. Lasley and the members of Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church will celebrate the completion of his fortieth year as Pastor of this outstanding congregation; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Bob Jones University, Dr. Gene Lasley holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, the Master of Christian Education degree, and the Doctor of Humanities degree; and

WHEREAS, accepting the call to serve as Pastor of Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church on June 10, 1963, Dr. Lasley has served faithfully and energetically for many years; he is a highly respected member of his community and profession; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Pastor of Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church, Dr. Gene Lasley has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; ministering to families and individuals in the Tri-Cities area through his preaching, service, and example, Dr. Lasley has made manifest the love of God for all humankind; and

WHEREAS, over the past forty years, Dr. Gene Lasley has led his flock through these tumultuous times with remarkable grace and humility; and

WHEREAS, because of Dr. Lasley's great devotion and sensitivity, the church has changed and grown while still maintaining its integrity; the congregation has remained unified as they voted to disassociate from the Southern Baptist Convention, has retained the intimacy of a country parish as the church's membership swelled (they now boast an average of 640 individuals in Sunday School every week), and has demonstrated faithful stewardship as they have entered into five building projects; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lasley's outstanding success as a spiritual leader and public servant is directly attributable to his reliance on God's amazing grace and the time-honored values of hard work, loving kindness, and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene Lasley is an extremely giving individual who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the humble Christian, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Lasley is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Ellen, and their three children, Laurie, Calvin, and Torrey; their support has been invaluable to Dr. Lasley as they have shared in his ministry,

handling, with uncommon grace, the extraordinary pressures and blessings experienced by parsonage families; and

WHEREAS, during 40 years in the active ministry, Dr. Gene Lasley has rendered tireless and faithful service to the Lord, his congregation, and the people of the community which he has served; his labors in the Vineyards of the Lord at Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and the Gray community have borne much fruit, and are therefore worthy of celebration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the members of Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in honoring the forty years of dedicated and dynamic ministry of their Pastor, Dr. Gene Lasley, reflecting fondly upon his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.